

January 19 - 25, 2015
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

With the warm weather over the weekend and warm temperatures continuing throughout the week, most of the ice has melted allowing birds to move around. Please use caution while on the water.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	56,479 ducks 2,175 CG 6,100 W-F geese 505 Snow 81,800 ducks 2,500 WFG 4,820 CG 1,000 Snow geese 43 eagles	80% Mallards, 6% Wigeon, 6% Ring-neck, 3% gadwalls, 1% Green-wing teal. The remaining 4 % is made up of Pintails, Shovelers, Black Duck, Wood Duck, Redheads and Buffleheads	With a warm front that has moved in over the last few days, 90% of the ice on the area has melted giving waterfowl the ability to spread out. Birds are sitting in shallow flooded timber and brush on Ballard and Boatwright. There is an abundance of moist soil food available on Ballard with a few areas that have been flooded over the last week creating more loafing and feeding areas.
Barren River Lake	No Count		
Birdsville Island	No count		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	No Count		
Duck Island	No count		
Boatwright WMA	14,000 ducks	97% Mallard, with remainder consisting of Shovelers, Gadwall, Green-Wings and unknown divers.	Birds are moving into shallows and hunt units since the thaw. There is good food in moist soil units, with seeds abundant in water. The remaining standing corn has been hit pretty hard since the freeze, and is mainly being used for cover.
Doug Travis WMA	4,250 ducks 45 W-F geese 15 CG	85% mallards, 5% green-wing teal, 5% ring-necks, 5% mixed dabblers	Area 95% open water. All 3 wells running to fight drought.

Clear Creek WMA	No Count		
Peabody WMA	2,253 ducks 179 CG 141 American Coots	72% mallards, 600 Divers	All shallow water is ice-free at this time.
Sloughs WMA	7,745 ducks 612 CG 6,895 W-F geese 3,000 Snow geese 207 Tundra Swans	80% mallards, 20% Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, and Northern Shovelers	After a stretch of warm weather and ample sunshine, nearly all water on the refuge is now ice-free. Consequently, waterfowl are widely dispersed across the landscape, capitalizing on shallow-water food sources that had been frozen for the past 2-3 weeks. Ducks are concentrating primarily on moist-soil impoundments, flooded timber, and buckbrush sloughs as pair-bonding is in full swing, and aquatic invertebrates make up a increasingly larger percentage of the birds' diets.
Yellowbank WMA	535 ducks	80% mallard, gadwall, black ducks, and wood ducks	All units are at 85% water capacity
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	540 ducks 20 Canada Geese 3 Mute Swans	75% of total ducks were diving ducks (redhead, ring-neck, mergansers and others including a couple of Canvasbacks. 25% Dabblers (Mostly Gadwalls, and rest Mallards and Blacks)	Diving ducks all on Lake Vega. Dabblers were in shallows or MSU. MSU filled to capacity
Herrington Lake	No Count		
Taylorsville Lake	No ducks		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	No Count		
Green River WMA	No Count		
Cave Run Lake	No Count		